

Please amend the Abstract on page 11 as follows:

~~"Rate Adaptive Optical Communication System and Method  
Thereof"~~

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The present invention discloses a~~ A rate adaptive system for  
an optical communication network. ~~The system~~  
~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of optical transceivers capable  
of transmitting and receiving optical signals at a plurality  
of rates and an optical fibre linked to the transceivers. The  
system is configured to cause the optical transceivers to  
transmit and receive optical signals at an initial rate and to  
adapt the rate based upon an error condition.

~~(Figure 2)~~